

WOMT Summary for 3/4/2008

Last week, the CVP and SWP began ramping down exports on February 27, targeting an OMR flow more positive than -3,000 cfs beginning February 28.

Citing their continued high concern due to declining abundance indices, increasing Delta water temperatures, seasonal adult salvage totals, the presence of a spent female delta smelt in salvage on February 17, and the distribution of adult delta smelt based on Spring Kodiak Trawl data from February 4-7, the Smelt Working Group recommended that the Projects operate to a 7-day running average Old & Middle River upstream flow of no greater than 2,000 cfs. However, because no adult smelt had been reported at the exports since February 29, and no larval smelt had been reported at the exports in the last week, and recognizing the current OMR flows, WOMT proposed that the Projects continue to operate to a 7-day OMR upstream flow between -2,500 and -3,000 cfs (and not to exceed -3,000 cfs) for another week.

Also, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service clarified during the meeting that the Projects' larval and young delta smelt sampling and monitoring protocols being implemented pursuant to the Wanger court order at Skinner and Tracy fish facilities are covered under the existing (2005) OCAP Biological Opinion for delta smelt.

The WOMT agencies also agreed to improve the reporting of the most current information to the SWG and USFWS. This would include the most recent Kodiak and 20mm trawl data; number, sex, maturity, and size of salvaged delta smelt; results of larval surveys at the facilities; and updated particle tracking runs.